

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified final Office Action, Applicants have filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination and have amended the sole remaining independent Claim 14 to require an inventive feature. Specifically a driving step is required to apply a plurality of pulses to a transfer switch to transfer photoelectric conversion signal charges, via the transfer switch, from a photoelectric conversion unit to a floating diffusion charge accumulator. In this regard, it is further required that one pulse is applied to a switch element for transferring a charge to a capacitor (line memory) arranged for each line.

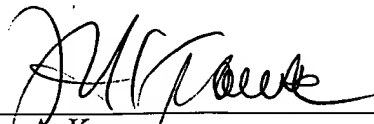
In the Office Action the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of cited Hwang and Kinoshita references. However, the above-characterized feature of the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by those references.

In particular, the cited Kinoshita patent discloses that plural pulses are applied, but those pulses continue even after transferring the signal charge from the photoelectric conversion unit, such as at the time of transferring through a transfer channel. In contrast to Kinoshita and Hwang, according to the present invention, after reading the signal from the pixel to the signal line, only one pulse is applied for the reading. This feature of the present invention is not disclosed by either of the cited Kinoshita or Hwang patents.

For these various reasons, it is believed that Claims 14, 16, and 17 are allowable, and a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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